

East Coast Main Line Company Limited

East Coast House, 25 Skeldergate

York YO1 6DH

www.eastcoast.co.uk

Barbara Whittles

request-100509-959856f8@whatdotheyknow.com

3 February 2012

Dear Ms. Whittles

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

I am writing in response to your FOI request, dated 16 January 2012, concerning the use of CCTV at stations served by East Coast trains and CCTV documentation.

Please find attached copies of the following documents:

- On Train CCTV Policies and Working Arrangements;
- CCTV Policies and Working Arrangements for Stations and Engineering Depots; and
- An East Coast Subject Access Request form.

We do not create an annual CCTV report or any equivalent.

We have withheld certain information from the first two attachments relating to the location of CCTV cameras and recording equipment and the capabilities of the systems we use. Within the documents, we have put an 'X' where information has been removed. Under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) "the Act" there is an exemption if such disclosure would endanger the physical health or safety of any individual (Section 38 (1)). As disclosure may present a security risk, and therefore potentially endanger the physical health and safety of passengers and staff on-board our trains, this exemption applies.

East Coast has applied the public interest test. It has recognised that there is a public interest in general in public authorities being as transparent as possible. However, it has also considered the need for public authorities to safeguard the safety and security of passengers and staff.

East Coast has decided that the public interest test in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure. The risk to safety and security is significant and outweighs the benefit to the public from disclosure. Therefore, taking into account all of the circumstances, East Coast believes that the public

Registered in England

Registered Offices:

4th Floor, One Kemble Street, London, WC2B 4TS

Registered Number: 04659708

interest is served by applying the exemption in section 38(1) of the Freedom of Information Act (2000) to the withheld information.

In terms of other organisations viewing CCTV images at stations served by East Coast trains, we only hold this information in respect of the 12 stations we manage. These are - Dunbar, Berwick upon Tweed, Newcastle Central, Durham, Darlington, York, Wakefield Westgate, Doncaster, Retford, Newark North Gate, Grantham and Peterborough.

With the exception of Darlington City Council, no other organisations are able to view images captured by our CCTV cameras (unless we allow access to them following a request that is approved in accordance with the Data Protection Act (1998)).

Darlington City Council is able to view CCTV images captured through our cameras from their secure control room. This is limited to the cameras at Darlington train station only. This arrangement was implemented by a previous franchisee, as a joint venture with Darlington City Council, as part of a national initiative to improve overall CCTV coverage across towns and cities. All signage at Darlington station instructs passengers to contact East Coast should they wish to receive copies of CCTV images. However, should the request be submitted to Darlington City Council, the request will still be processed.

I hope this is helpful to you. If you are not satisfied with the response, you have the right to ask for a review. In the first instance you should contact me again to request this. If you choose to exercise that right, and are not satisfied with the outcome of the review, you have the right to complain to the information Commissioner by contacting:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Telephone 08456 30 60 60 or 01625 54 57 45
Website www.ico.gov.uk

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. M. L.', written over a horizontal line.

For and on behalf of East Coast Main Line Company Limited